

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Region
Order No. R8-2005-0071
NPDES No. CA0106828

Waste Discharge Requirements
for
Dos Cuadras Offshore Resources, LLC
Platform Esther
Pacific Ocean, Orange County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region (hereinafter Board), finds that:

1. Dos Cuadras Offshore Resources, LLC (hereinafter discharger) owns and operates the oil and gas drilling/production platform "Esther", located in the Pacific Ocean approximately 1.5 miles offshore of the City of Seal Beach in Orange County. The platform is located at Latitude 33° 43' 18.09" N and Longitude 118° 07' 28.77" W. The discharge of wastes from this platform is currently regulated by Order No. 00-06, NPDES No. CA 0106828, which was issued to the previous owner/operator of the platform, Nuevo Energy Company. Order No. 00-06 expired on February 1, 2005 and was not administratively extended.
2. On August 5, 2004, Nuevo Energy Company informed Regional Board staff that Nuevo Energy Company had merged with Plains Exploration and Production Company (PXP). Consequently, PXP acquired ownership of Platform Esther. Order No. 00-06 was transferred to PXP. On January 5, 2005, Dos Cuadras Offshore Resources, LLC (DCOR) advised Board staff that it had acquired ownership and operation of the Platform on December 20, 2004. DCOR submitted a complete application for waste discharge requirements for discharges from Platform Esther on April 15, 2005.
3. The discharger discharges approximately 1,000 gallons per day of disinfected, secondary treated sanitary wastewater to the Pacific Ocean from a pipe at Discharge Serial No. 001.
4. Produced water, deck drainage, and stormwater are normally collected, treated, and injected into the oil-bearing formation. In the event of upset to the injection system, up to 10,000 barrels (approximately 420,000 gallons) per day of these treated wastes may be discharged to the Pacific Ocean from a second pipe at Discharge Serial 002.
5. All solid and semisolid wastes (drilling muds and cuttings, cement slurry, etc.) from the platform will be barged ashore for approved disposal. On March 4, 1993, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated new effluent guidelines and standards for the Offshore Subcategory of the Oil and Gas Extraction Point Source Category, amending 40 CFR 435. The new guidelines prohibit the discharge of drilling fluids and cuttings to the waters of the United States within the territorial seas of the state of California, defined as waters within three miles of the shore.

6. A revised Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) became effective on January 24, 1995. The Basin Plan contains beneficial uses and water quality objectives for waters in the Santa Ana Region. More recently, the Basin Plan was amended significantly to incorporate revised boundaries for groundwater subbasins, now termed "management zones", new nitrate-nitrogen and TDS objectives for the new management zones, and new nitrogen and TDS management strategies applicable to both surface and ground waters. This Amendment was adopted by the Regional Board on January 22, 2004. The State Water Resources Control Board and Office of Administrative Law (OAL) approved the Amendment on September 30, 2004 and December 23, 2004, respectively. The Basin Plan Amendment does not affect the requirements of this Order.
7. The existing or potential beneficial uses of the Offshore Zone of the Pacific Ocean include:
 - a. Navigation,
 - b. Water contact recreation,
 - c. Non-contact water recreation,
 - d. Marine habitat,
 - e. Ocean commercial and sportfishing
 - f. Industrial process water,
 - g. Spawning, reproduction, and development,
 - h. Rare, threatened, or endangered species, and
 - i. Wildlife habitat.
8. The platform structure creates an environment that supports shellfish. Therefore, the discharges of wastes to this area of the Pacific Ocean must be regulated so as to protect shellfish harvesting activities.
9. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) adopted the California Ocean Plan on July 6, 1972. The State Board has amended the Plan subsequently.
10. The requirements contained in this Order are necessary to implement the Basin Plan, the Ocean Plan, and regulations promulgated pursuant to the Clean Water Act.
11. The Board has considered antidegradation pursuant to 40 CFR 131.12 and State Board Resolution No. 68-16, and finds that these discharges are consistent with those provisions.
12. In accordance with Water Code Section 13389, the issuance of waste discharge requirements for this discharge is exempt from those provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act contained in Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 21100), Division 13 of the Public Resources Code.
13. Effluent limitations and new source performance standards established pursuant to Section 301, 302, 303(d), 304, 306, 307 and 501 of the Clean Water Act and amendments thereto are applicable to the discharge.

14. The Board has notified the discharger and other interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe waste discharge requirements for the discharge and has provided them with an opportunity for a public hearing and an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.
15. The Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the discharger, in order to meet the provisions contained in Divisions 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder, and the provisions of the Clean Water Act and the regulations and guidelines adopted thereunder, shall comply with the following:

A. Discharge Specifications:

1. The discharge of wastes at Discharge Serial No. 001 shall not exceed a 30-day average total suspended solids concentration of 60 mg/l. Alternatively, the discharger shall remove at least 75% of the suspended solids (as a 30-day average) from the influent stream to the sanitary waste treatment unit before discharging wastewater to the ocean
2. The discharge of produced water, stormwater runoff, and/or deck drainage at Discharge Serial No. 002 shall not exceed a 30-day average oil and grease concentration of 25 mg/l or a daily maximum concentration of 42 mg/l.
3. There shall be no discharge of free oil as a result of any discharge of waste.
4. The discharge of wastes shall not cause or threaten to cause pollution or nuisance as defined in the California Water Code.
5. The discharge of wastes shall not contain any constituent in concentrations that will render the ocean waters unsuitable for the beneficial uses identified in Finding 7, above.
6. The discharge of any substance in concentrations toxic to animal or plant life is prohibited.
7. The discharge of drilling mud, cuttings, and cement slurry into the Ocean within three miles of the shore is prohibited. Any discharges of these wastes into the Ocean beyond three miles of the shore shall be conducted only in accordance with requisite permits and approvals by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. All waste cuttings, mud, cement slurry, rags and other wastes shall be transported ashore for disposal at a waste management unit approved by the Executive Officer of the Board.
8. There shall be no discharge of any material that is floatable or will become floatable upon discharge.

B. Receiving Water Limitations:

1. The wastewater discharged at Discharge Serial No. 001 shall not cause the median total coliform density of the receiving water to exceed 70 per 100 ml, and not more than 10 percent of the samples shall exceed 230 per 100 ml, outside the Zone of Initial Dilution¹ (ZID).
2. The wastewater discharged at Discharge Serial No. 001 shall not cause the fecal coliform density based on a minimum of not less than five samples for any 30-day period, to exceed a geometric mean of 200 per 100 ml nor shall more than 10 percent of the total samples during any 60-day period exceed 400 per 100 ml.
3. The discharge at Discharge Serial No. 001 shall not cause the Total Chlorine Residue concentration in the receiving water outside the ZID¹ to exceed a 6-month median of 2 µg/l, a maximum daily of 8 ug/l, nor an instantaneous maximum of 60 µg/l.
4. The discharge of wastes shall not cause any visible oil, grease, scum, floating, or suspended material or foam in the receiving water, nor cause the receiving water to have an objectionable odor.
5. The discharge of wastes shall not cause aesthetically undesirable discoloration of the ocean surface.
6. The discharge of wastes shall not cause the transmittance of natural light to be significantly² reduced.
7. The discharge of wastes shall not cause the rate of deposition of inert solids and the characteristics of inert solids in ocean sediments to be changed such that benthic communities are degraded.
8. The discharge of wastes shall not cause those substances listed in Section II, Table B of the Ocean Plan to concentrate at levels in marine sediments which would degrade biota in sediments, or other marine life.
9. The discharge of wastes shall not increase the concentration of organic materials in marine sediments to levels that would degrade marine life.

¹ Measured 20 feet down current of the discharge point.

² Significant difference is defined in the Ocean Plan as a statistically significant difference in the means of two distributions of sampling results at the 95 percent confidence level.

10. The discharge of wastes shall not contain pollutants that will bioaccumulate in aquatic resources to levels that are harmful to human health.
11. The discharge of wastes shall not cause the dissolved oxygen concentration of the ocean at any time to be depressed more than 10 percent from that which occurs naturally.
12. The discharge of wastes shall not cause the pH of the ocean beyond the ZID to be changed at any time by more than the 0.2 units from that that occurs naturally.
13. The discharge of wastes shall not contain nutrient materials, radioactive materials, or levels of any effluent constituent that would degrade marine communities, including vertebrate, invertebrate, and plant species.
14. The discharge of wastes shall not alter the natural taste, odor or color of fish, shellfish, or other marine resources used for human consumption.
15. The discharger shall take all reasonable steps to minimize any adverse impact to receiving waters resulting from noncompliance with any effluent limitations specified in this Order, including such accelerated or additional monitoring as necessary to determine the nature and impact of the noncomplying discharge.

C. Compliance Determination:

1. Compliance with the requirements of this Order shall be based on the following:
 - a. Periodic inspections by Board staff,
 - b. Evaluation of the monitoring reports submitted in accordance with the attached monitoring and reporting program, and
 - c. Any other relevant information.
2. Compliance determinations shall be based on the analytical results of all samples collected during the time interval associated with the effluent limitation. Where only one sample is analyzed in a specified time interval (e.g., 30-day average or 30-day median), that sample shall serve to characterize the discharge for the entire interval.

D. Required Reports and Notices:

1. All applications, reports, or information submitted to the Board shall be signed and certified in accordance with 40 CFR 122.22.
2. The discharger shall furnish, within a reasonable time, any information the Board or EPA may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking and reissuing, or

terminating this Order. The discharger shall also furnish to the Board, upon request, copies of records required to be kept by this Order.

3. The discharger shall file with the Board a report of waste discharge at least 180 days before making any material change or proposed change in the character, location, or volume of the discharge.
4. The discharger shall give advance notice to the Board as soon as possible of any planned physical alterations or additions to the permitted facility.
5. Except for data determined to be confidential under Section 308 of the Clean Water Act, all reports prepared in accordance with terms of this Order shall be available for public inspection at the offices of the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Regional Administrator of EPA. As required by the Clean Water Act, effluent data shall not be considered confidential. Knowingly making any false statements on any such report may result in the imposition of criminal penalties as provided for in Section 309 of the Act and Section 13387 of the California Water Code.
6. The results of any analysis of samples taken more frequently than required shall be reported to the Board.
7. The discharger shall immediately report any noncompliance that may endanger health or the environment. Any information shall be provided to the Executive Officer (951-782-4130) and the Office of Emergency Services (1-800-852-7550), if appropriate, as soon as the discharger becomes aware of the circumstances. Such incidents shall be reported within twenty-four hours to the Executive Officer of the Board. A written report shall be submitted within five days and shall contain:
 - a. A description of the noncompliance and its cause;
 - b. The period of noncompliance, including exact times and dates and, if the noncompliance has not been corrected, the anticipated time it is expected to continue; and
 - c. Steps taken and planned to terminate the incident of discharge or reduce, eliminate and prevent reoccurrence of the noncompliance.
 - d. The Executive Officer, or designee, may waive the above required written report on a case-by-case basis.

E. Provisions:

1. This Order shall become effective upon its adoption. This Order shall serve as a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit pursuant to Section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, or amendments thereto, which shall become effective 10 days after the date of adoption provided the Regional Administrator of the

Environmental Protection Agency has no objection. If the Regional Administrator objects to its issuance, this Order shall not serve as an NPDES permit until such objection is withdrawn.

2. Neither the treatment nor the discharge of waste shall create, or threaten to create, a nuisance or pollution as defined by Section 13050 of the California Water Code.
3. Order No. 00-06 is hereby rescinded.
4. This Order expires on May 1, 2010 and the discharger must file an application in accordance with Title 23, Division 3, Chapter 9 of the California Code of Regulations not later than 180 days in advance of this expiration date. The Report of Waste Discharge shall serve as the application for issuance of new waste discharge requirements.
5. The discharger shall comply with Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R8-2005-0071. This monitoring and reporting program may be modified by the Executive Officer at any time during the term of this Order, and may include an increase in the number of parameters to be monitored, the frequency of the monitoring or the number and size of samples to be collected. Any increase in the number of parameters to be monitored, the frequency of the monitoring or the number and size of samples to be collected may be reduced back to the levels specified in the original monitoring and reporting program at the discretion of the Executive Officer.
6. The requirements prescribed herein do not authorize the commission of any act causing injury to the property of another, nor protect the discharger from his liabilities under federal, state, or local laws, nor guarantee the discharger a capacity right in the receiving waters.
7. The provisions of this Order are severable, and if any provision of this Order, or the application of any provisions of this Order to any circumstance, is held invalid, the application of such provision to other circumstances, and the remainder of this Order shall not be affected thereby.
8. This Order does not convey any property rights of any sort, nor any exclusive privilege.
9. In the event of any change in control of the waste discharge facility presently controlled by the discharger, the discharger shall notify the succeeding owner or operator of the existence of this Order by letter, a copy of which shall be forwarded to the Board.
10. This Order is not transferable to any person except after notice to and approval by the Executive Officer. The Executive Officer may require modification, or revocation and reissuance, of this Order to change the name of the discharger and incorporate such other requirements as may be necessary under the Clean Water Act.
11. The discharger shall comply with effluent standards or prohibitions established under section 307(a) of the Clean Water Act for toxic pollutants within the time provided in the

regulations that establish these standards or prohibitions, even if this Order has not yet been modified to incorporate the requirement.

12. In an enforcement action, it shall not be a defense for a discharger that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of this Order.
13. The Board, EPA, and other authorized representatives shall be allowed:
 - a. Entry upon premises where a regulated facility or activity is located or conducted, or where records are kept under the conditions of this Order;
 - b. Access to copy any records that are kept under the conditions of this Order;
 - c. To inspect any facility, equipment (including for monitoring and control), practices, or operations regulated or required under this Order; and
 - d. To photograph, sample, and monitor for the purpose of assuring compliance with this Order, or as otherwise authorized by the Clean Water Act.
14. The discharger shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge that has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment.
15. The discharger shall, at all times, properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) which are installed or used by the discharger to achieve compliance with this Order. Proper operation and maintenance includes effective performance, adequate funding, adequate staffing and training, and adequate laboratory and process controls, including appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of backup or auxiliary facilities or similar systems which are installed by a discharger only when the operation is necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of the permit.

F. Permit Reopening, Revision, Revocation, and Reissuance:

1. This Order may be reopened to address any changes in State or federal plans, policies or regulations that would affect the quality requirements for the discharges.
2. This Order may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause. The filing of a request by the Discharger for modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination, or a notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not stay any Order condition.
3. This Order may be reopened to include effluent limitations for pollutants determined to be present in significant amounts in the discharge through any monitoring program.

I, Gerard J. Thibeault, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region, on May 27, 2005.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "GJ Thibeault", is written over a horizontal line.

Gerard J. Thibeault
Executive Officer

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Region

Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R8-2005-0071

NPDES No. CA0106828

for

Dos Cuadras Offshore Resources, LLC
Platform "Esther"
Orange County

A. General Monitoring Guidelines

1. All sampling and sample preservation shall be in accordance with the current edition of "Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater" (American Public Health Association).
2. All laboratory analyses shall be performed in accordance with test procedures under 40 CFR 136 (latest edition) "Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants," promulgated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), unless otherwise specified in this monitoring and reporting program (M&RP). In addition, the Regional Board and/or EPA, at their discretion, may specify test methods which are more sensitive than those specified in 40 CFR 136.
3. Chemical, bacteriological, and bioassay analyses shall be conducted at a laboratory certified for such analyses by the State Department of Health Services or EPA or at laboratories approved by the Executive Officer of the Regional Board.
4. The discharger shall assure that records of all monitoring information are maintained and accessible for a period of at least five years from the date of the sample, report, or application. This period of retention shall be extended during the course of any unresolved litigation regarding this discharge or by the request of the Executive Officer at any time. Records of monitoring information shall include:
 - a. The date(s), exact place, and time of sampling, measurements, and analyses;
 - b. The individual(s) who performed the sampling, measurements, and analyses;
 - c. The analytical techniques or methods used;
 - d. The results of such analyses; and
 - e. A signed statement by a certified lab technician (or representative of the lab), that each piece of equipment utilized to perform the test was in proper working order and calibrated to within the necessary parameters to achieve the measurements required by the tests performed.
5. Effluent samples shall be collected downstream of the last addition of waste to the treatment or discharge works where a representative sample may be obtained prior to mixing with the receiving waters.

6. All monitoring instruments and devices used by the discharger to fulfill the prescribed monitoring program shall be properly maintained and calibrated as necessary to ensure their continued accuracy.
7. Whenever the discharger monitors any pollutant more frequently than is required by this monitoring and reporting program, the results of the monitoring shall be included in the calculation and reporting of the data submitted in the discharge monitoring report for that monitoring period.
8. The discharger shall retain records of all monitoring information, including all sampling and analytical results, all original strip charts from continuous monitoring devices, all data used to complete the application for this Order, and copies of all reports required by this Order. The sampling and analytical records shall include the exact location, date, and time of sampling; the analyst's name, and the analytical techniques used. Such records shall be retained for a period of at least five years from the date of the sample, report, or application. This period of retention shall be extended during the course of any unresolved litigation regarding this discharge or by the request of the Board.

B. Sanitary Waste Monitoring

1. Influent Monitoring

On the same day as the effluent monitoring, the influent must be sampled for total suspended solids¹.

2. Effluent Monitoring

- a. Each working day, the discharger shall determine and record in a permanent log the dates and estimated flow of treated sanitary waste discharged to the ocean.
- b. During the first 10 working days of each month, a representative sample of the waste at Discharge Serial No. 001 shall be collected and analyzed for total suspended solids and residual chlorine.

3. Receiving Water Monitoring

- a. A daily inspection of the receiving water in the vicinity of the discharge shall be made, and recorded in a bound, permanent log, for visible oil, floating solids, discoloration, and foam.
- b. Within the first 10 working days of each month, representative samples of the receiving water shall be collected at points 100 feet upcurrent and 20 feet down current of the sanitary waste discharge within the top 10 feet of the water column.

¹ This is not necessary if the effluent total suspended solids concentration has not been recently higher than 60 mg/l.

The down current sample shall be analyzed for total coliform organisms, fecal coliform concentration, total chlorine residual², dissolved oxygen², and pH². The up current sample shall be analyzed for dissolved oxygen² and pH². The direction of the prevailing ocean current at the time of sampling shall be recorded in the permanent log. If more than one sample is collected, it must be collected on different days.

C. Produced Water, Stormwater Runoff, Deck Drainage Monitoring

1. Effluent Monitoring

- a. Each working day, the volume of the waste discharged at Discharge Serial No. 002 shall be determined and recorded in a bound, permanent log.
- b. Whenever a discharge occurs, a representative sample of wastewater from Discharge Serial No. 002 shall be collected during the first day of discharge and analyzed for the following constituents:

Constituent	Type of Sample	Units	Minimum Frequency of Sampling and Analysis
Oil and Grease	Grab	mg/l	Daily
Ammonia	"	µg/l	Once per discharge
Arsenic	"	"	"
Cadmium	"	"	"
Copper	"	"	"
Cyanide	"	"	"
Lead	"	"	"
Manganese	"	"	"
Mercury	"	"	"
Nickel	"	"	"
Selenium	"	"	"
Silver	"	"	"
Zinc	"	"	"

² Field measurements for chlorine residual, dissolved oxygen and pH are acceptable.

Constituent	Type of Sample	Units	Minimum Frequency of Sampling and Analysis
Benzene	Grab	µg/l	Once per discharge
Benzo (a) Anthracene	"	"	"
Benzo (a) Pyrene	"	"	"
Chrysene	"	"	"
Benzo (k) Fluoranthene	"	"	"
Benzo (b) Fluoranthene	"	"	"
Dibenzo (a,h) Anthracene	"	"	"
Hexavalent Chromium ³	"	"	"
Phenol	"	"	"
Toluene	"	"	"
Ethylbenzene	"	"	"
Naphthalene	"	"	"
2,4-Dimethylphenol	"	"	"
Undissociated Sulfides ⁴	"	"	"
Whole Effluent Toxicity ⁵	Composite	TUc	Once per discharge

For discharges that continue for more than one day, samples shall be collected each day thereafter and analyzed for oil and grease.

2. Receiving Water Monitoring

- a. A daily inspection of the receiving water in the vicinity of the discharge shall be made, and recorded in a bound, permanent log, for visible oil, floating solids, discoloration, and foam.

³ Total chromium may be sampled as an alternative to hexavalent chromium.

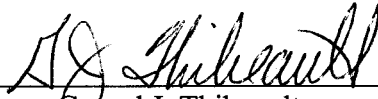
⁴ Use EPA Method 376.1 (or equivalent method published in Standard Methods) to analyze for total sulfide. Use procedure in method to calculate undissociated sulfide fraction. Report undissociated sulfide fraction based on the pH, temperature and salinity of both the end-of-pipe sample and ambient ocean conditions at the platform. Ambient ocean pH of 8.1 and salinity of 30 g/kg may be used.

⁵ The chronic toxicity shall be estimated as specified in "Short-Term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to West Coast Marine and Estuarine Organisms." EPA/600/R-95/136, August 1995, Office of Research and Development (or latest edition).

D. Reporting

1. Monitoring reports shall be submitted by the 30th day of January, April, July, and October and shall include copies of the flow/visual observation logs for the previous month as well as copies of all chemical and bacteriological analyses performed during the previous month.
2. For every item where the requirements are not met, the discharger shall submit a statement of actions undertaken or proposed which will bring the discharge into full compliance with requirements at the earliest time. A timetable for correction shall be submitted.

All reports shall be signed by a responsible officer or duly authorized representative of the discharger and shall be submitted under penalty of perjury.

Ordered by 
Gerard J. Thibeault
Executive Officer

May 27, 2005

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Santa Ana Region

May 27, 2005

ITEM: 9

SUBJECT: Waste Discharge Requirements for Dos Cuadras Offshore Resources, LLC (Platform "Esther"), Orange County, Order No. R8-2005-0071, NPDES No. CA0106828

DISCUSSION:

On February 25, 2000, the Regional Board adopted waste discharge requirements, Order No. 00-06, NPDES No. CA0106828, for Nuevo Energy Company, for the discharge of wastes from Platform "Esther" to the Pacific Ocean. Platform "Esther" is an oil and gas drilling/production platform located in the Pacific Ocean approximately 1.5 miles offshore of the City of Seal Beach (see Attachment "A"). Order No. 00-06 expired on February 1, 2005.

On August 5, 2004, Nuevo Energy Company was merged with Plains Exploration & Production Company (PXP). Consequently, PXP acquired ownership of Platform "Esther". On October 4, 2004, PXP submitted a renewal permit application, which was later determined to be incomplete. On January 5, 2005, Dos Cuadras Offshore Resources, LLC. (DCOR) informed Regional Board staff that effective December 20, 2004, DCOR succeeded PXP as owner and operator of the Platform Esther. On April 15, 2005, DCOR submitted a complete revised application for the issuance of waste discharge requirements for Platform "Esther".

Current and potential waste streams are described below:

Sanitary Wastewater

Approximately 1,000 gallons per day (GPD) of treated sanitary wastewater are discharged through a pipe at Discharge Serial No. 001. All sanitary wastewater generated on the platform passes through a secondary treatment plant with extended aeration. Dry, soluble chlorine tablets are used to disinfect the effluent. A chlorine residual limit for the receiving water is included in the proposed Order.

The platform structure creates an artificial reef that supports shellfish, and therefore any discharges to the area must be regulated so as to protect shellfish harvesting activities. The proposed Order contains receiving water total and fecal coliform limits for the sanitary waste discharge. The total coliform limits are based on shellfish harvesting standards specified in the California Ocean Plan.

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Produced Water

All produced water from the extraction of crude oil and natural gas is treated to remove oil and solids and is normally reinjected into the oil-bearing formation. However, occasionally the injection system fails to operate properly (upset) and/or must be taken offline for repairs. During these periods, up to 420,000 gpd of treated oil-free wastewater may be discharged to the Pacific Ocean at Discharge Serial No. 002.

Deck Drainage and Stormwater

Deck drainage and/or stormwater runoff, which may be contaminated by oil and drilling wastes, is captured by grated troughs located on the periphery of each deck. These flows are combined with the produced water for treatment and disposal.

Drilling Mud, Drill Cuttings, and Cement Slurry

The discharge of drilling cuttings and fluids within three miles of the United States shoreline is no longer permitted by Federal regulation (Oil and Gas Extraction Point Source Category, 40 CFR Part 435). Accordingly, all semisolid and solid waste generated at the platform will be transported ashore for disposal at approved sites.

Although the disposal of cement slurry used for stabilizing borehole casing is not specifically prohibited in the EPA guidelines, bioassay analyses of various cement slurry mixes in other previous cases have indicated toxicity levels for mysid shrimp (*Mysidopsis bahia*). Physical smothering by disposed solids is more of a concern for benthic life forms. Cement slurry is normally barged ashore. This Order prohibits discharges of cement slurry into the ocean.

The requirements contained in this Order are intended to protect the beneficial uses of the Pacific Ocean offshore zone listed in the Santa Ana Region Water Quality Control Plan. The present or potential beneficial uses include: navigation; water contact recreation; non-contact water recreation; marine habitat; wildlife habitat; ocean commercial and sportfishing; industrial process water; spawning, reproduction, and development; and use by rare, threatened, or endangered species. The proposed waste discharge requirements should be adequate to protect these beneficial uses.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Order No. R8-2005-0071, as presented.

Comments were solicited from the discharger and from the following agencies:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Permits Issuance Section (WTR-5) – Dough Eberhardt
U.S. Army District, Los Angeles, Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Carlsbad
NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service
State Water Resources Control Board, Office of the Chief Counsel – Jorge Leon
State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality – Jim Maughan
State Department of Water Resources, Glendale
State Department of Health Services, Santa Ana
State Department of Fish and Game, Marine Resources Division, Long Beach
State Lands Commission, Mineral Resources Management Division, Long Beach
California Coastal Commission, South Coast District
Orange County Public Facilities and Resources Department, Harbors, Beaches and Parks
Orange County Water District – Nira Yamachika
Orange County Health Care Agency
City of Seal Beach -- Mark Vukoyevic
Orange County Coastkeeper – Garry Brown
Lawyers for Clean Water C/c San Francisco Baykeeper

Attachment "A"

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Dos Cuadras Offshore Resources, LLC (Platform "Esther")

LOCATION MAP

